The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief review of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

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COMMUNISTS GUIDE ST. PAUL CONFAB

Washington, May 31.—"Communists are mortal enemies of democratic ideals," declared Senator La Follette, answering a request from Herman L. Ekern, attorney general of Wisconsin, as to his attitude toward the "Farmer-Labor - Progressive convention," called to meet at St. Paul, June 17.

That convention, continued Senator La Follette, "will not command the support of the farmers, the workers or other progressives because those who have charge of the arrangements for this convention have committed the fatal error of making the communists an integral part of their organization."

Senator La Follette quotes the central executive committee of the Workers' party of America to prove his point that the communists are using progressive sentiment to create a condition of chaos favorable to their ultimate ends.

In the Daily Worker, official organ of the Workers' party, issue of March 24, 1924, the communists say:

"It is, therefore, important that we adopt the correct communist policy now known as a guide to the entire party for its work inside the Farmer-Labor party throughout the country.

"The Workers' party prides itself in being a Communist party; that means that it considers its work to build up and lead the forces which will bring about a proletarian revolution in the United States and establish a soviet form of government and the dictatorship of the proletariat."

Senator La Follette also shows that the communists are receiving Moscow instructions for the St. Paul convention.

In the May 16, 1924, issue of the Daily Worker is published the following statement by the central executive committee of the Workers' party of America over the signatures of William Z. Foster, chairman, and C. E. Ruthenberg, executive secretary:

"In order to settle the question of whether the farmer-labor united front was a policy that a Communist party such as the Workers' party should put into effect and in support of which it should throw all its strength, the central executive committee of the Workers' party submitted this question to the communist international (Moscow), with which it is affiliated as a fraternal organization.

"The view of the communist international on this question is expressed in the following cablegram:

"Communist international considers June 17 convention momentous importance. Workers' party. Urges C. E. C. not to slacken activities preparation June 17. Utilize every available force to make St. Paul convention great representative gathering labor and left wing.—Executive Committee, Communist International."

In commenting on this evidence that the communists in this country and in Moscow are actively interested in the St. Paul convention, Senator La Follette said:

"The communists stand for the substitution of the soviet form of government for the one we now have, and propose to accomplish this change through a revolution, with a class dictatorship as their ultimate aim instead of a democracy. It is evident that the communists can work with the progressives who believe in democracy is deliberately to confuse the public. The communists are antagonistic to the progressive cause and their participation in joining such a movement is to disrupt it.

"Not only are the communists the mortal enemies of the progressive movement and democratic ideals, but, under the cloak of such extremists, the reactionaries find the best possible opportunity to plant their spies and provocatory agents for the purpose of confusing and destroying true progressive movements."

BEWILDERED TRADE UNIONISTS ABANDON FARMER-LABOR PARTY

Chicago, May 31—Bewildered by the multiplicity of so-called "labor" parties, and discouraged by the workers' refusal to join a political working class movement, the Chicago federation of labor has withdrawn its support from the Farmer-Labor party. The federation has again accepted the non-partisan political policy of the A. F. of L.

The reversal to withdraw was made by John Fitzpatrick, president of the federation and one of the founders of the Farmer-Labor party.

"The present situation compels action," said President Fitzpatrick, in announcing that "we cast our lot with that of the American Federation of Labor."

"That seems to be the only way to meet the present situation," continued President Fitzpatrick. "If I tried to enumerate the different groups that claim to represent labor and the farmers, it would be considerable of a list, and you can't keep track of them. There is only one thing for us to do, and that is to cut loose and confine our own plans in this movement we are a part of.

"The rank and file have not subscribed to the program we launched, and when they did not, and will not, there is no hope for that to happen now or in the near future, and we feel that this is the only real and honest thing that can be done."

President Fitzpatrick's recommendation of withdrawal was indorsed by practically a unanimous vote.

Simultaneous with this action, officials of the Farmer-Labor party sang the swan song of that organization, and have called off their national convention. The officials state that they have received no responses to their appeal for financial help, and they intimate that workers are not interested in a political party.

This is indicated by the officers' statement that about all they can do is the maintaining of identity and prevent theft of its name by designing groups or individuals."

Confusion has become worse confounded as a result of machinations of self-seeking persons and groups who have caused a multiplicity of state and national movements until it is impossible to get an understanding of the number of independent political action by the unions and farm groups which receive flocks of conflicting invitations, charges, counter charges and manifestos that they can not in reason be expected to unscramble and apprehend.

"The net result of the intriguing of those who are conducting this guerrilla warfare on the citizenship of the working class party" is that opportunities have been dissipated, frittered away and lost."

The statement concludes with a hope that the differences are ready, "when we can," to resume former activities, but it is clear that the Farmer-Labor party as a national movement is permanently located in the political graveyard.

Workers Are Urged To Impress Rights On Major Political Parties

Washington, May 31.—In a statement to the general trade union movement, signed by President Gompers and Secretary Frank Morrison, it is stated that at the last meeting of the A. F. of L. executive council "outstanding representative men in the labor movement were mentioned in connection with the nomination for the office of vice president by the major political parties."

The statement includes a declaration by the A. F. of L. executive council, which expresses the hope that platforms of each of these political parties "shall embrace the full protection and promotion of the rights and interests of the great mass of the people of our Republic—the farmers and the wage earners."

"It is the further hope and insistence of the American wage earners that favorable upon a platform of honor, honesty, and progress, candidates will be nominated for president and vice president of the United States who shall commend themselves to the favorable consideration of the great mass of the citizenship of our country, and that in the selection of these candidates the hopes, aspirations, and claims of American wage earners for favorable consideration shall be treated fairly and justly.

"Favorable consideration is strongly urged of the names of outstanding types of America's workers for the nominations to positions within the gift of these political party conventions, and all workers, all citizens, are called upon in bringing to realization the high and lofty purpose of securing the selection of candidates capable of intelligently, fearlessly, and justly promoting and protecting the human interest of our people and of restoring and safeguarding the principles of justice and freedom.

"The above declaration will be submitted to the political parties and it is here suggested that the officers of state federations and city central bodies form committees to wait upon the delegates from their respective districts to the political party conventions and urge upon them favorable consideration and action upon the principles and purposes of the above declaration to the end that candidates will be nominated for president and vice president of the United States who shall commend themselves to the favorable consideration of the great mass of the citizenship of our country, and that in the selection of these candidates the hopes, aspirations, and claims of American wage earners for favorable consideration shall be treated fairly and justly."

PAID $1,000 A MONTH TO PROSECUTE LABOR

Washington, May 31.—Special Assistant Attorney General Todd told the senate Daugherty committee he was paid $1,000 a month for prosecuting Santa Fe railroad strikers in 1922 when they "deserted" their trains at Needles, Cal. The strikers refused to man dangerous equipment that strikebreaking shop men were turning out, but railroad influences aided Attorney General Daugherty and Todd in spreading the story that the employes had left the train in a desert where much suffering resulted. Needles is a town of 5,000 population.

Todd defended the prejudicial methods on the senate committee when he referred to Gaston Means, whom he is prosecuting in the Jake Ruddy case, as "Crook." Means is a former secret service agent and has exposed methods employed by Daugherty and Burns.

Senator Ashurst told Todd that was the first time he ever heard a prosecutor refer to the accused as other than the "accused" or the "defendant." Even a prosecutor never says "the criminal" or "the crook," said Senator Ashurst.

Other senators told Todd his malice indicates how unfair and prejudiced the department of justice has been. Todd said he was retained to prosecute the shop men's strike, but Daugherty insisted he continue.

"Daugherty didn't need an energetic prosecutor in the war fraud cases," said one senator, who was assured by Todd that the department general "assigned to those cases better lawyers than I am."

"I didn't think that were possible," was Senator Wheeler's biting comment.

"REED" FURNITURE ONLY TWISTED PAPER

Los Angeles, Cal., May 31.—Much of the "reed" furniture sold in this city is twisted paper made by convict labor, according to members of the Reed and Rattan Workers' union, who are conducting a fight against this double imposition.

Local unionists are pushing the sale of this paper furniture. It is known as "fibre" furniture, and has the appearance of reed, but has none of its qualities.

"Fibre is a woody substance, grown in Asia," said a representative of the union. "Reed never loses its life and can always be renewed and cleaned by turning a hose on it, while the so-called fibre has no stiffening strength of its own, stretches out of shape and can only be cleaned by re-painting. Notwithstanding the inferior kind of material, and the lower cost of production by convict labor, the retail merchant passes this class of goods on the customer at about the same price he would charge for real furniture."

LIBERTY BONDS UP

New York, May 31.—Following the passage of the soldiers' insurance bill, Liberty bonds soared to new heights. Financiers who made contrary predictions in their campaign against the soldiers' bill are now explaining how these bonds happened to go up instead of down.

Swanson's Eloquent Defense of Truth

Washington, May 31.—One of the features of the senate investigation of charges against Senator Wheeler of Montana was the peroration to truth by Senator Swanson of Virginia.

The committee, of which Senator Borah was chairman, reported that the Wheeler indictment in Montana is a frame-up. The senate accepted this report by a vote of 56 to 5.

Senator Sterling of South Dakota opposed the report because, he said, the vindication would be circulated in Montana, and this would put the government at a disadvantage. To this Senator Swanson replied:

"The government at a disadvantage with reference to what?" he asked. The government at a disadvantage when a citizen is on trial and the facts are officially known.

"That government ought to be cursed, that government ought to be driven from power, which needs protection by a suppression of the truth and facts. Such action might embarrass the ministers of Sweden; it might embarrass the district attorney of Montana, who has vouched for the truth of the report; embarrass the department of justice, which started out either to blackmail him or destroy his character, to have the truth and facts known; but God knows no temple of justice was ever yet profaned by considering the facts and the truth.

"This is the first time I have ever known the position to be taken that justice could be perverted by a publication of the truth.

"Slander is always hurt by a propagation of truth; rumors are always destroyed by the publication of truth. It is only those who wish to thrive and succeed with slander and its false associations and by rumors who desire to suppress the truth."

"PITTSBURG PLUS" IS AGAIN OPPOSED

Washington, May 31.—Recommendation that the "Pittsburgh plus" plan of fixing the price of steel be abolished was made to the federal trade commission in a brief filed by the commission's attorneys. The commission had previously accused "Pittsburgh plus," and the attorneys sustain every charge made in the commission's complaint.

This system makes it possible for the steel trust to keep its Pittsburgh mills on the same basis as mills nearer the raw material by forcing independent mills to add to their charge the freight cost of the haul from mill to Pittsburgh.

"The trial of this case has served to reveal the inner workings and devastating effects of the 'Pittsburgh plus' system," the brief says.

"The limelight on the facts is having its inevitable effect, as it did in the case of, first, the pools; and then the price-fixing trade meetings, and, third, the Gary dinners. All of these succumbed, and now we have the corpse of 'Pittsburgh plus' to the land of its predecessors."

CAN'T ENJOIN SLANDER

Detroit, Mich., May 31.—Organized electrical workers have discovered that the injunction in labor disputes is for the employer only.

These workers have been slandered by advertisements in the daily press, published by a secret citizens' committee. They started a suit for slander and asked Judge Tuttle to issue an order against the employers' continuing such irresponsible statements.

The court denied the request.

AUTO PLATES PRISON MADE

Des Moines, Iowa, May 31.—The state board of control is arranging to employ convicts in the manufacture of automobile plates. Other states will manufacture state-use commodities. These are changes from the contract-labor system.

CIGARMAKERS EXTEND THEIR JURISDICTION

Chicago, May 31.—The Cigarmakers' International union has thrown open all former restrictions and admits to membership every person working in that industry. The union's committee on laws has issued an appeal to unorganized men and women workers.

Under the present laws all wage earners in the cigar and tobacco industry, regardless of how employed, are eligible to membership in the unionists say. "The bunch breaker, the roller, those employed on bunch breaking machines and the automatic machine, team workers, hand workers, mold workers; in fact, all wage earners, regardless of the name issued admits to membership every person working in that industry. The union's committee on laws has issued an appeal to unorganized men and women workers.

Under the present laws all wage earners in the cigar and tobacco industry, regardless of how employed, are eligible to membership in the unionists say. "The bunch breaker, the roller, those employed on bunch breaking machines and the automatic machine, team workers, hand workers, mold workers; in fact, all wage earners, regardless of the name issued about the cigar factory, are eligible to membership."

"Women can and should be organized in the cigar industry," it is stated. "Once organized they would make good trade unionists. Womnh have a fine sense of fairness and justice. Organize them, and they will prove this statement. Women have determination, courage, and willingness to assume their place in the effort to improve working conditions of all wage earners. Organize!"

TELEPHONE COMPANY JUGGLES ITS STOCK

New York, May 31.—The American telephone and telegraph company is engaged in a stock juggling deal to flotation which means a profit of from 20 to 30 per cent to old stockholders.

Two months ago the company issued $118,000,000 in new capital stock. It is now issuing an additional $150,000,000, when the market value is more than $120 a share. This will make the total capitalization around $600,000,000. The local public court has taken the power to fix telephone rates from the public service commission and permitted the company to increase its rates 10 per cent until an inquiry into the case can be made by the supreme court of the court. City officials told the court that the company has swelled its costs for the purpose of building a foundation on which to base arguments for an increased rate.

The company is largely a holding concern, though it owns and operates the long-distance telephones throughout the country. It supplies telephone equipment to local subsidiaries who turn over to the parent company 4½ per cent of their gross telephone receipts. This corporation is bitterly anti-union and has organized the usual company "union" as an alibi to the public.

COMPANY "UNION" ENDS

Detroit, Mich., May 31.—Officers in charge of the municipal street car system announced that the company "union" election has been postponed indefinitely. Union street car men forced the election postponement when Judge Richter intimated that the city charter compels arbitration with the unions and that Bertillion card advised both sides to mediate, and the company accepted the hint.

BAKERS RECORD GAINS

Chicago, May 31.—Substantial gains in agreements made with employers are reported by officers of the Bakery and Confectionery Workers' International union. These agreements represent every section of the country. Wage increases range from $2 to $5 a week.

BAKERS SIGN CONTRACT

Spokane, Wash., May 31.—The Bakers' union has renewed its contract with employers. Former rates continue but workers secured a score of improved shop conditions.

INJUNCTION MAY HURT JUDICIAL WAGE BOOST

Washington, May 31.—An injunction judge may be responsible for blocking a substantial salary increase to himself and to the federal judiciary.

Congress has declared that a housing emergency exists, and extended the District of Columbia rent law for one year, following a complete survey of the housing situation in this city. Justice Stafford now puts his judgment against congress and the president, and enjoins the rent commission from enforcing the rent law, because, said this usurper, no emergency exists. The United States supreme court recently ruled that the law only applies if an emergency exists and the lower courts shall decide. The law-making body and the executive hold that an emergency does exist.

Friends of the rent law are now wondering what congress will do with a bill that would increase the salary of judges. Advocates of this bill are pointing to the housing situation, but if these judges believe no housing emergency exists, will congress vote Judge Stafford a $13,000 salary, instead of $6,000? And will the United States supreme court judges be voted $20,000 instead of $15,000?

PROFIT IN 5 AND 10'S

New York, May 31.—With the death of the wife of the late F. W. Woolworth, founder of a chain of 5-and-10-cent stores, financial circles are discussing the income of the late Mrs. Woolworth, who was physically and mentally disabled for several years.

When Woolworth died, five years ago, his income from Woolworth common stock amounted to $1,000,000 a year. This did not include his income from other investments. Since 1919 a 20 per cent stock dividend was issued, and the total Woolworth holdings will amount to about $57,000,000.

It is estimated that the income will now total $2,100,000.

This chain of stores is conducted along the usual 5-and-10 plan—employment of young girls at low wages, and trade unionism not tolerated.

HEARD IN THE SENATE

Mr. Robinson—I offered to read to the senate the uncontradicted testimony of the witness——

Mr. Spencer—Will the senator allow me, as the chairman, to continue?

Mr. Robinson—Why, certainly.

Mr. Spencer—I am now in the process of making a simple and brief argument on a constitutional question.

Mr. Robinson—Very well. I agree with the senator that it is very simple.

JOIN ANTI-UNION CROWD

Akron, Ohio, May 31.—Plasterer and lather contractors have been lured into the anti-union crowd, and are now engaged in putting up first-class work with strikebreakers.

PLUMBERS WIN STRIKE

Moline, Ill., May 31.—Plumbers have won their strike for wage increases. Rates are advanced $1 a day. The new rate is $9.

Walter Clark, Humane Jurist, Passes

Washington, May 31.—The death of Hon. Walter Clark, chief justice of the North Carolina state supreme court, marks the passing of a humane jurist and a man who was not deceived by the sophistries of the day.

This was shown in a remarkable decision by him as umpire for the national war labor board. The board ordered the Wheeling mold and foundry company to apply the eight-hour day. The company asked that the case be reopened, and the matter was referred to Justice Clark, acting as arbiter.

In upholding the board's ruling, the jurist opposed the system of working long hours with extra time after eight hours, unless in case of emergency. These should be decided by employers and employes.

"It is true that both employers and employes have done their best to aid the government in the prosecution of the war, but, "the former have received great increase in profit."

The latter (employes) has contributed an increase in the hours of labor, and vast numbers of men to fill our armies," said Justice Clark. "The former have received from the government; the latter have given to it. They should not be asked to do so beyond the necessity of the occasion."

The decision includes one of the best short defenses of the eight-hour day that has been written.

"It is better that the machinery should be worn out than the bodies of employes," said the jurist. "Man passes through this world but once, and he is entitled, in the language of the great Declaration, 'to some enjoyment of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.'"

In answer to the claim that the Wheeling mold and foundry company is not paying the eight-hour day rate in Wheeling, Justice Clark said:

"All betterment has come by imposing something and not continuing them when bad. Improved conditions is the object of this proceeding."

Justice Clark's decision in fixing the eight-hour day in all cases is no reason why in this case it should not be applied.

Justice Clark was on the state bench 35 years, and 21 years of that period he was chief justice. His decisions made an impress on the nation's life, and during all these years he was in line with progress. His keen and temperate analyses of the weakness and the usurpations of the judiciary is a classic, and the publication is a public service.

Justice Clark has well summarized in his decision in the case of Pressly vs. Yarn Mills (182 N. C., 624) the law as it fossilized. It is a growth. It grows more just with the growing humanity of the race, and broadens with the process of the suns.' Labor is the basis of civilization. Let it withhold its hand and the forests return and grass grows in the silent streets.

"WORLD STANDS STILL," BACKWARD BOSSES' VIEW

New York, May 31.—"Nothing new; the world stands still," summarizes declarations of the national association of manufacturers, in its annual convention in this city.

The platform of American industry which political parties are called upon to adopt, include opposition to child labor legislation, arbitration in public utilities and no change in the Esch-Cummins act. The child labor amendment is dangerous, declared these business men. President Edgerton, who is a southern lawyer, vigorously insisted that the amendment "would injure those whom it is proposed to help."

A stand-pat policy toward the courts was announced and a veiled demand for incorporation of trade unions is seen in this declaration: "No form of combination shall be permitted to acquire and exercise power without corresponding responsibility responsibility for its own conduct and that of its agents."

LESS INCOME TAXES

Washington, May 31.—The tax bill agreed to by the house and senate is a substitute for the Mellon bill, calls for a 25 per cent reduction of taxes. This will be 4 cents per $100. Provisions of the bill do not apply until next year. The normal income tax rate will be 2 cents on each $1, comes up to $4,000. Present rates are 4 per cent on incomes of $4,000. The exemptions are the same.

The tax on auto parts and tires is cut from 5 per cent to 2½ per cent. Publicity of income and luxuries taxes are repealed as is the tax on candles and beverages. The tax on incomes above $66,000 is reported. Publicity of income taxes, in a modified form, is provided.

RAILROAD BONDS SOLD

New York, May 31.—The Great Northern railroad company disposed of $45,000,000 bonds to the value of $15,000,000 without even advertising their sale. The bonds will yield nearly 5½ per cent.

President Hill made this statement in reference to the company's profits, which should be of interest to shop men:

"During the first four months of the year the net railway operating income is estimated at $2,796,000, as compared with the actual figure of $2,625,000 in the corresponding months of 1923.

These profits are at the rate of more than $10,000,000 a year, and are indicative of the returns being made by class 1 railroads.

BIG PROFITS IN BREAD

New York, May 31.—This year's profits of the General baking company will exceed those of 1923, when the net gains totaled $5,529,559. This company is the largest maker of bread in the United States. Besides large profits it has declared two stock dividends since 1921.

COMPANY "UNION" EXPOSED BY FRIEND

Chicago, May 31.—In explaining railroad opposition to the Howell-Barkley bill, which would abolish the railroad labor board and substitute mediation machinery, the American Contractor says:

"One feature of the new bill is the right employes will be free to choose their own representatives without the interference of the railroads. This is aimed at the company 'unions.'"

This unintended blow at the company "union" comes from a friend.

The American Contractor acknowledges that the company "union" permits railroad managers to select the workers' representatives, and that it permits the managers to continue their shameful deception on the public, who are led to believe there is value in the company "union."

The Howell-Barkley bill would, in the language of the American Contractor, permit employes "to choose their own representatives without the interference of the railroads."

This frank statement by the builders' publication is a new indorsement of organized labor's position on the company "union."

It also shows why the railroads so bitterly oppose the Howell-Barkley bill.

CONVICTS ARE GOUGED

Baltimore, May 31.—In an address to the local federation of labor, a former inmate of the state penitentiary said that contractors pay the state $1 a day for each prisoner. The convict is paid 25 cents per day if he completes his allotted task. Before the prison have a number stamped under the pocket flap, and these, together with shirts, shoes and clothing, are made in great quantities. The speaker denounced the graft system that robs prison inmates of small amounts of money they happen to have. He urged unionists to assist in changing antiquated methods of handling criminals in courts and other institutions and advised a more humane method of handling first and lesser offenders, especially youthful violators of the law.

NORTHERN PACIFIC GAINS

New York, May 31.—Net profits of the Northern Pacific railroad for the first four months of the present year were in excess of $3,800,000. This is the largest net income for the same period in 1923. These profits are declared to be record-making. A few years ago the corporation was one of the leading croakers that "agitators" are making it impossible for railroad managers to make a fair profit. The purpose of this campaign was to create a public opinion against any changes in the railroad law.

SHOE MACHINERY PROFITS

New York, May 31.—A net profit of $7,654,941 for last year is reported by the United Shoe machinery corporation. This compares with $5,047,215 the previous year.

ALIEN LAW SIGNED; JAPS ARE EXCLUDED

Washington, May 31.—The president has signed the immigration bill with the understanding, announced that he and Secretary of State Hughes opposed. Mr. Coolidge said it was impossible to do other than sign the bill, as the present law expires on June 30.

Differences with congress on the Japanese exclusion clause was stated by the president, who said:

"The bill rather expresses the determination of the congress to exercise its prerogative in defining by legislation the control of immigration than the exclusion by it to international arrangements."

Congress believes that the "gentlemen's agreement" with Japan makes that section a party to the enforcement of our immigration laws. This is a privilege enjoyed by no other nation. The agreement was arrived in 1907 by President Roosevelt. It is not a treaty. The senate was not consulted in the negotiations. Under the agreement Japan pledges not to issue passports to its nationals of the laboring classes, and the United States is to recognize other passports.

Japan claims to have complied with the agreement. This is denied by members of congress who insist that America pay for the privilege with the aid of Japan. It is pointed out that Japan rigidly follows that plan and defies the agreement by aid of statute, and congress refused to surrender its prerogative.

MORONS ON BENCH?

New York, May 31.—"Morons administering justice," was the characterization of some members of the judiciary by George W. Alger at a meeting of representatives of several lawyers' associations. The meeting was called to take steps toward obtaining a better type of judge. Speakers declared "something should be done to save the judiciary from politics.

"Unless we get a better type of incumbent than many now occupying important positions, our judicial system will break down," said Mr. Alger. "We must have judges who can execute the law, including the increasing volume of precedent, is becoming more complicated all the time."

JUICY STEEL PROFITS

Chicago, May 31.—Profits of the Inland steel company are higher than the $2,176,489 of the first three months of the present year, it is declared by officers, all costs and depreciations were met and after paying interest on $10,000,000 of preferred stock.

MACHINISTS RAISE WAGES

Chicago, May 31.—After long negotiations, organized machinists have increased wages 2 cents an hour. The agreement provides that new men shall be employed through the union office, rather than through employment offices.

BETTER WORK CONDITIONS

Rochester, N. Y., May 31.—Improved work conditions features a new contract between the New York state railways and its trolley men.

JUDGE GARY'S WAR RECORD HAS 'SLIGHT' PROFIT TAINT

New York, May 31.—Judge Gary made a mess of things at a meeting of steel men in this city when he said the government would nationalize the steel industry at one period of the year.

"It was a gigantic communistic scheme," thundered the judge, as he shook his fist at the shop-chairmen listeners. The trust executive built up a beautiful background for a picture of the steel industry owned by owners. Bernard M. Baruch heaved a brick at the picture and it now hangs in the discard with the judge caught playing the great American game of "four-flush."

Alexander Legge, chairman of the war industries board. In a carefully-worded reply to Judge Gary, he shows that the steel industry was not run by government but not until all of them —including Judge Gary—were notified they must submit to rates above profits.

Mr. Baruch said he regrets that Judge Gary's remarks "bring to public attention unnecessarily a very unpleasant incident in connection with that part of the steel industry for which he was spokesman."

Then follows a detailed account of several meetings with steel men and with Judge Gary, personally, in an effort to have them lower their price of forty cents a pound for steel ship plates. At a meeting of steel men in Judge Gary's office, Mr. Baruch urged a modification of this price.

"They could see my point, although later in the evening I again met Judge Gary and made the same request, to which I got the same reply," said Mr. Baruch.

Following investigations by the finest engineering talent ever assembled, the government set 3 cents as a fair price. The steel men, led by Judge Gary, insisted and refused to in one instance they actually charged 14 cents a pound to one of America's allies.

Finding it impossible to check the profit lust of the steel men, the war industries board threatened that if the steel interests should not be willing to give their full co-operation because of the profits involved, the war industries board would take the necessary steps to take over the steel plants.

The action left protection against conscienceless extortioners now called the "gigantic communistic scheme" by the man who led the profiteering band.

Hugh Frayne, A. F. of L. representative, who was a member of the war industries board, corroborates Mr. Baruch's statement. The trade unionist said that not only did the board find it necessary to threaten to take over the steel industry, but also lumber and copper, in order to prevent profiteering.

SPY SYSTEM IN FULL FORCE; SLEUTHS "FRAME" CITIZENS

Washington, May 31.—The senate committee that exonerated Senator Wheeler uncovered methods employed by the government's secret service system to "frame" citizens who are objectionable to them.

In the Wheeler case senators of both parties declared that the Montana indictment is a frame-up, instigated by low politicians against a senator who is proving a most competent probber of corruption of office. The senate also observe partisanship in its repudiation of the attempted victimization of a senator by a district attorney appointed by Daugherty. It was charged on the floor of the senate that political prosecution was applied to members of the Montana grand jury before an indictment was obtained.

Members of that jury told Senator Wheeler that after several ballots were taken and no indictment voted, they were permitted to separate. They were taken out to dine by politicians who told them that it was necessary to indict Senator Wheeler.

It was revealed in this investigation that government spies searched the desks of Senators La Follette and Caraway.

Senator Wheeler was charged with receiving money to appear before government departments in the interest of clients while serving as a member of the United States senate.

Before another senate committee John W. H. Crim, former assistant attorney general, declared that the secret service system of the department of justice is a "den of iniquity."

Mr. Crim said it is desirable to do away with nine-tenths of the secret service. He said there are so many evils connected with it that "where is the use wasting time on the evils of an organization of that sort."

The witness said the department should have 60 or 60 high-class specialists and authorities in hand writing, accountancy and the Bertillion system, and that the several hundred "pinks" should be let out.

"The fellow who comes from the corner drug store, that some congressman, or senator, or national committeeman or district leader wants to get a job for, ought to be put in, is a menace," said Mr. Crim.

"And after he gets in the department, he will make some sort of alliance with somebody in the treasury department, or in some other department, and the first thing you know you have a den of iniquity. It is just the sort of soil that breeds demoralization in the government and paralyzes the law-enforcement agency."